



MINUTES

INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

March 29, 2016

Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room B
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

3:00 p.m. EST
Board Meeting

The meeting of the Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB") convened at 3:02 p.m.

ICSB Members Karega Rausch (Chair), Kreg Battles, DeLyn Beard, Virginia Calvin, and Kristin Reed were present. Board member Gretchen Gutman arrived at 3:06 p.m. and board member Josh Owens arrived at 3:05 p.m. Staff members James Betley, Michelle McKeown, Bridgett Abston and Amy Osborne were present.

I. Call to Order/Board Meeting minutes approval

Dr. Rausch called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Dr. Rausch motioned to approve the proposed minutes. Dr. Calvin seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Rausch, Mr. Battles, Dr. Calvin, Mr. Owens, Ms. Gutman, Ms. Beard and Ms. Reed voting yes.

II. Updates

Executive Director James Betley provided an update on the number of applications that had been received, including proposed locations. He further described how the application process works and the next steps.

III. Charter School Application Consideration: Thea Bowman Leadership Academy

Staff Recommendation: Mr. Betley presented the staff recommendation regarding the Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (“TBLA”) change in authorizer application. The staff’s recommendation was to approve TBLA’s change in authorizer application.

Before getting into the introduction of the applicant group, Dr. Rausch paused to introduce Gretchen Gutman as a new board member. He welcomed her and indicated her expertise, knowledge and passion for this work will add to the board. Mr. Betley indicated that Ms. Gutman had replaced Danny Lopez after Mr. Lopez recused himself due to a new position at the Lieutenant Governor’s office.

Mr. Betley then continued by explaining the background in ICSB receiving the application from TBLA. Mr. Betley described the thorough due diligence conducted by the ICSB staff to make a recommendation of approval.

Presentation of proposal: Dr. Rausch introduced the Drexel Foundation board members in attendance. Mr. Tony Walker and Mr. Earl Phalen provided an overview of the application, the changes made since non-renewal from Ball State University and the plan to move forward with Phalen Leadership Academies.

Question and Answer Period: The ICSB then proceeded to ask the TBLA board members several questions. Question topics included Phalen’s capacity to manage a high school; the separation from Ball State University and decision to not appeal their decision; and the issue of attempting to switch authorizers.

The Board recessed from 4:31 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

IV. Charter School Application Decision

Prior to the vote, there was discussion regarding TBLA’s presentation. Dr. Calvin indicated her decision was based on making sure there was evidence of capacity, educational plan and business plan. She commented that the board members have a moral obligation to see that the TBLA students are able to return to TBLA.

Dr. Rausch indicated that he does not share the same level of optimism despite TBLA’s changes. He indicated that the ICSB would be setting a precedent for those who wanted to authorizer shop.

Mr. Owens thanked staff for its time and effort into their recommendation. He indicated that the Board needed to look at whether the Board addressed the deficiencies and whether the Board has met the requirements of the law and of the ICSB. He commented that he

believed that they had met both areas and that TBLA deserved the opportunity to continue to serve their students.

Hearing no further comments, Dr. Rausch opened the floor to a recommendation. Dr. Calvin moved to recommend approval for TBLA. Mr. Owens seconded. Dr. Rausch indicated the vote would be taken by a voice vote. He also stated that despite what the vote is, he hopes either through ICSB or some other entity that the students in the community have a school to go to once this process is completed. He also discussed there are other plans that may be able to help TBLA.

The motion for approval for the TBLA change in authorizer failed with Dr. Rausch, Ms. Gutman, Mr. Battles, Ms. Beard and Ms. Reed voting no and Dr. Calvin and Mr. Owens voting yes. The vote was 2-5.

V. Closing Remarks

Dr. Rausch had no closing remarks.

VI. Adjourn

Dr. Rausch called for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.